

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of canceling setup of a conference between an originating station and a terminating station via a conference server in a scenario where (a) the conference server has received an invitation message from the originating station seeking to set up the conference with at least the terminating station and (b) the conference server then receives a cancellation message from the originating station before setup of a conference leg between the conference server and the terminating station is complete, the method comprising:
 - in response to the cancellation message, (i) completing setup of the conference leg between the conference server and the terminating station and (ii) then sending a teardown message from the conference server to the terminating station to tear down the conference leg between the conference server and the terminating station.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the conference server carries out the completing and sending functions.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the invitation message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE message, the cancellation message is a SIP CANCEL message, and the teardown message is a SIP BYE message.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein completing setup of the conference leg between the conference server and the terminating station comprises sending an acknowledgement message from the conference server to the terminating station.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the acknowledgement message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) ACK message.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein:

if the conference server has already received an agreement message from the terminating station agreeing to participate in the session, then completing setup of the conference leg between the conference server and the terminating station comprises sending an acknowledgement message from the conference server to the terminating station; and

5 if the conference server has not yet received the agreement message from the terminating station agreeing to participate in the session, then completing setup of the conference leg between the conference server and the terminating station comprises (i) the conference server receiving the agreement message from the terminating station and (ii) sending the acknowledgement message from the conference server to the terminating station.

10 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the invitation message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE message, the agreement message is a SIP 200 OK message, and the acknowledgement message is a SIP ACK message.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the conference leg is a Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP) session.

9. A method comprising:

receiving a first invitation message from a first station, seeking to set up a conference session with a second station;

responsive to the first invitation message, sending a second invitation message to a
5 second station, seeking to set up a conference leg with the second station;
receiving a cancellation message from the first station before completing setup of the
conference leg with the second station; and
responsive to the cancellation message, (i) completing set up of the conference leg with
the second station and (ii) sending a teardown message to the second station, seeking to tear
10 down the conference leg with the second station.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein:

the first invitation message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE message;

the second invitation message is a SIP INVITE message;

the cancellation message is a SIP CANCEL message; and

5 the teardown message is a SIP BYE message.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the conference leg is a Real-time Transport
Protocol (RTP) session.

12. A conference server comprising:

a processor;

data storage;

logic stored in the data storage and executable by the processor in a scenario where (a)

5 the conference server has received from an originating station an invitation message seeking to
set up a conference with at least one terminating station via the conference server and (b) the
conference server then receives a cancellation message from the originating station before setup
of a conference leg between the conference server and the terminating station is complete,

wherein the logic causes the processor to (i) complete setup of the conference leg
10 between the conference server and the terminating station and (ii) then send a teardown message
to the terminating station to tear down the conference leg between the conference server and the
terminating station.

13. The conference server of claim 12, wherein
 - the invitation message is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) INVITE message;
 - the cancellation message is a SIP CANCEL message; and
 - the teardown message is a SIP BYE message.
14. The conference server of claim 12, wherein the conference leg is a Real-time Transport Protocol (RTP) session.
15. The conference server of claim 12, further comprising a network interface for communicating over a packet-switched network.